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U.S. GRAPE PRODUCERS GAIN MARKET ACCESS IN CHINA

Ambassador Barshefsky announced today that the United States and China concluded a protocol and work plan which will open the Chinese market to U.S. exports of grapes.

“This is one step in a continuing process of expanding U.S. agricultural exports to China by eliminating sanitary and phytosanitary barriers,” said Ambassador Barshefsky. “We remain concerned about a wide range of market access issues in China and will continue to work vigilantly to open China’s market in agriculture trade and overall goods and services. Secretary Glickman and I sent a delegation to Beijing this week with the explicit purpose of addressing remaining barriers affecting our agriculture exports.”

The protocol and work plan, effective immediately, will allow U.S. exporters of grapes from four counties in California -which represent the major share of U.S. production of table grapes - to ship to China. Other counties would be added at a later date following further exchange of scientific data. U.S. exports of grapes potentially could amount to \$45-50 million within two to three years.